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The World Bank
INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

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February 20, 1986

Ms. Carmel Budiardjo
General Secretary
British Campaign for the Defence
of Political Prisoners and Human Rights in Indonesia
8a Treport St.
London SW18 2BP
United Kingdom

Dear Ms. Budiardjo:

I am responding to your letter of January 10, 1986 to Mr. Clausen regarding World Bank support for family planning activities in East Timor.

You queried the justification for World Bank support for Indonesian projects that included activities in East Timor in light of its current status. World Bank policy in such instances is to provide support through Bank-assisted projects when there is no objection from the concerned authorities, which is the case in East Timor, where the Bank is presently providing assistance through both population and secondary education projects. We believe such Bank-supported activities are consistent with United Nations resolutions, which, among other things, call upon the specialized agencies and other organizations of the U.N. to assist the people of East Timor.

You also asked for our comments on the Pastoral Letter from the Bishop of Dili, which provides guidance on the issues involved and choices individuals must make when determining for themselves what family planning practicies to follow. The Bank-supported family planning program is designed to provide information and assistance covering a wide range of family planning methods under the policy that individuals should be free to choose the method that best suits their own values and beliefs. Such a flexible approach is particularly appropriate in Indonesia in view of the country's cultural and religious diversity, and provides a framework that can accommodate the practices espoused in the Bishop's letter. However, his letter also points out perceived faults in the administration of the Government's program in East Timor and opposes these as not keeping with the national policy. The World Bank is opposed to coercion in Bank-supported family planning programs and is encouraging the Indonesian authorities to ensure that the National Family Planning Program is administered in keeping with its policies and objectives.

Thank you for your interest in these important matters.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas A. Blinkhorn
Chief, Public Affairs Division
Information & Public Affairs Department